

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2002. In the Office Action, claim 6 was objected to for an informality. Further, all of claims 1-93 were rejected.

Herein, claims 2-5, 7-9, 18, 19, 25-27, 36, 38-40, 60-79, and 81-84 are cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 15, 32-35, 37, 46, 53, 54, 80, 85, 92, and 93 are amended. New claims 94-108 are added.

A. Amendments to the Drawings and Specification

Accompanying this Amendment is a Request to Amend Drawings, which corrects minor errors in the drawings. No new matter is added.

The specification is amended in several places to correct errors or omissions. No new matter is added.

The amendments to the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 26 concerning the surgical patient 107 and communication line 161 is supported by Figure 1A, which shows these features without reference numbers. The reference to an imaging system, e.g., a endoscopy video camera, is supported at page 12, line 24 et seq.

The amendment to the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 32 concerning headset 104 is supported by Figures 1A, 3B, and 3C.

The remaining amendments to the specification correct minor typographical errors or omissions.

B. Claim Objections

Claim 6 was objected to because of an error in its dependency. Claim 6 is amended to resolve this objection.

C. Double Patenting Rejection

All claims were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over U.S. Patent 6,101,038. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to resolve this rejection.

D. Rejection of Claims 1-10, 13, 14, 24-28, 30-41, 44, 45, 53, 54, 61-68, 71, 74-84, 88, and 91-93

The above-listed claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Hanson et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,005,213) in view of Fournier et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,671,158) and Hebert et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,008,939). Hereinafter, these references will be referred to as "Hanson," "Fournier," and "Hebert," respectively.

Claims 2-5, 7-9, 25-27, 36, 38-40, 61-68, 71, and 81-84 are cancelled, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Independent claims 1, 35, and 80 have been amended, and are submitted to be patentable over the cited combination of references. In particular, the term "baseband video signal" in claims 1, 35, and 80 replaces the term "modulated video signal." No new matter is added, since the amendment is supported, for instance, at page 11, line 15 et seq., where it states that "the signal is encoded using a baseband (no carrier frequency) amplitude modulation protocol"

The term "baseband video signal" distinguishes Hanson, because Hanson discloses modulation of the video signal onto a carrier frequency. Col. 4, lines 49-53. Neither Hanson, Fournier nor Hebert expressly disclose a "baseband video signal." Hence, it is submitted that claims 1, 35, and 80¹, and their respective dependent claims², are allowable.

¹ Claim 80 also has been amended to move the "light-emitting diodes" term to an earlier portion of the claim, and to

Regarding claim 32, the Examiner did not specifically address the particular features of the claim. It is submitted that none of the Hanson, Fournier, or Hebert references expressly disclose the features of claim 32. Hence, claim 32 should be allowed for this reason as well as its dependence on claim 1.

E. Rejection of Claims 15-23, 46-52, 55-60, 69, 70, 72, 73, 85-87, 89, and 90

The above-mentioned claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the combination of Hanson, Fournier, Hebert, and Gramann et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,028,708) (hereinafter "Gramann").

Claims 18, 19, 60, 70, 72, and 73 are cancelled, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Regarding claims 15, 46, 55, and 85, it is submitted that Gramann fails to show several features of the claim. As background, support for these claims is provided in the application at page 23, first paragraph, at page 24, first and second paragraphs, and in Figures 5A and 5E-5H.

In particular, it is submitted that Gramann fails to disclose, in either of his Figures 3 or 4, the feature of an "inner light cone having diffusely reflecting outer walls." The Examiner did not indicate where she saw this feature in Gramann, and it is submitted that it is not present.

eliminate unnecessary claim terms. These amendments are unrelated to the rejection, and broaden and clarify the claim.

²Certain dependent claims have been amended, without the introduction of new matter. Claims 32, 33, 53, and 92 have been amended to include the term "baseband," similar to their respective, underlying independent claim. Claims 15, 46, and 85 have been broadened by the replacement of the term "cemented" by the broader term "coupled." Claim 37 has been amended to change its dependency. Finally, claims 34, 54, and 93 have been amended to delete unnecessary terms.

It is further submitted that Gramann fails to disclose a "wide-angle collecting lens," as set forth in claims 15, 46, 55 and 85. Gramann's "radiation focusing device 8" is not a collecting lens, but rather focuses outgoing light to "an optical device 9 which is disposed downstream of the radiation-focusing device 8, as viewed in the propagation direction of the emitted beam 7." Col. 7, line 28 et seq.

Accordingly, because Gramann cannot supply these features to the Examiner's combination, the rejection of claims 15, 46, and 85 must be withdrawn. Claims dependent on these claims also should be allowed.

Regarding claims 16, 47, 55 and 86, it is submitted that Gramann fails to show the feature of "an outer conic cavity." The Examiner did not indicate where she saw this feature in Gramann, and it is submitted that this feature is not present. Accordingly, these claims should be allowed.

Regarding claims 20, 49, 55, and 88, it is submitted that Gramann fails to disclose "a prismatic dispersion plate for widening a collection angle of said assembly." Gramann's "prismatic cube 14" is not a "dispersion plate." Nor does Gramann's prismatic cube 14 serve the function of "widening a collection angle." Rather, Gramann's prismatic cube 14 is a beam splitter. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of these claims is not supported by Gramann.

Claims 21, 50, 89 further describe the "prismatic dispersion plate" of claims 20, 49, and 88, and hence also are not present in Gramann.

Regarding claims 51 and 90, it is submitted that Gramann fails to disclose "an asymmetrical prismatic pattern for widening a collection angle of said assembly." Gramann's prismatic cube 14 is not asymmetrical. Nor does Gramann's prismatic cube 14 serve the function of "widening a collection

angle." Rather, Gramann's prismatic cube 14 is a beam splitter. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 51 and 90 should be withdrawn.

F. New Claims

New claims 94-108 are added, and are submitted to be allowable. In general, the new claims have features similar to the original claims. No new matter is added.

Claim 97 is an independent claim, and includes the features of:

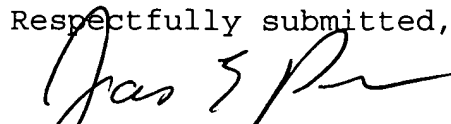
a video processing circuit configured to output a baseband video signal having a bandwidth of at least about 85 MHz, said video signal comprising a serial data stream having a repetitive sequence of three color fields, wherein at least some of the same color fields are repeated in the serial data stream.

It is submitted that at least the underscored features distinguish the combination of Hanson, Fourier, and Hebert.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that all claims are in a condition for allowance. If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408 451-5906 to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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